

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PC-10 AID-20 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 DRC-01 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5593

INFO USCINCSO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1762

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, AR

SUBJ: OBREGON CANO RESIGNS; GOA SHIFTS TO MODERATE LINE

REF: BA-1719, BA-1705, AND BA-1572

1. SUMMARY: OBREGON CANO AND ATILIO LOPEZ HAVE RESIGNED, THUS OPENING WAY FOR GOVT TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH UCR AND ACHIEVE TWO-THIRDS VOTE IN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. INTERVENTION NOW VIRTUALLY AUTOMATIC. ENCOURAGINGLY, GOVT HAS DURING PAST TWO DAYS SHIFTED BACK TO MODERATE POLICY OF NEGOTIATION AND COMPROMISE AND AWAY FROM BLUNDERING TACTICS OF COL. OSINDE. END SUMMARY.

2. OBREGON CANO AND ATILIO LOPEZ BOTH PRESENTED RESIGNATIONS LAST NIGHT AFTER HAVING BEEN GIVEN RED-CARPET TREATMENT BY PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES RAUL LASTIRI. MEETING IN HIS OFFICE WITH THEM ALSO WERE FREJULI BLOC LEADER FERDINANDO PEDRINI AND UCR BLOC LEADER ANTONIO TROCCOLI. GOVERNOR AND VICE-GOVERNOR DESCRIBED MEETING AS CORDIAL AND SHORTLY THERE-AFTER BOTH MEN HANDED PEDRINI RESIGNATIONS TO BE FORWARDED
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TO CORDOBA PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE.

3. APPARENTLY RESIGNATIONS CLEARED THE WAY FOR AGREEMENT WITH UCR; HENCE, JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT VOTE WAS TAKEN ON WHETHER TO TABLE INTERVENTION MEASURE IMMEDIATELY AND NECESSARY TWO THIRDS WAS ACHIEVED. MEASURE ITSELF MUST STILL BE VOTED OUT, BUT WITH ONLY A MAJORITY NEEDED TO PASS IT THAT WILL BE VIRTUALLY AN AUTOMATIC PROCESS AND SHOULD BE COMPLETED TODAY.

4. PERONISTS HAD ALREADY INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT UCR'S DEMANDS THAT NAVARRO BE BROUGHT TO TRIAL AND THAT INTERVENTION BE LIMITED TO PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE BRANCH. UCR WAS ALSO DEMANDING TO KNOW IDENTITY OF INTERVENTOR, OR TO HAVE VOICE IN HIS APPOINTMENT. APPARENTLY, THIS POINT WAS ALSO SATISFIED OR UCR WOULD NOT HAVE VOTED FOR IMMEDIATE TABLING OF MEASURE. SEVERAL MODERATE PERONISTS AND MEMBERS OF UCR HAVE PRIVATELY INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR OSELLA MUNOZ, BUT THERE IS AS YET NO OFFICIAL INDICATION THAT IT WILL BE HE.

5. ATMOSPHERE HAS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY DURING PAST 48 HOURS. AS LA OPINION PUTS IT THIS MORNING, IT IS APPARENT THAT THE WHOLE AFFAIR IS NOW IN HANDS OTHER THAN CLUMSY ONES WHICH HAD HANDLED IT SINCE FEB 27--AND POSSIBLY BEFORE. GOVT HAS SHIFTED BACK TO ORIGINAL LINE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND DIALOGUE WHICH SEEMED DANGEROUSLY NEAR BREAKING DOWN AS RESULT BLATANT AND LEFT-FOOTED OVERTHROW OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITIES IN CORDOBA.

6. IT IS INTERESTING THAT PERON NOW APPEARS TO BE WILLING TO THROW NAVARRO TO THE WOLVES. NAVARRO IS OF COURSE EXPENDABLE, BUT WORDING OF COMPROMISE REPORTEDLY APPROVED BY PERON (SEE BA 1705) ACCEPTS CRIMINALITY OF HIS ACTIONS AND STANDS IN SHARP CONTRADISTINCTION TO TONE AND CONTENT OF "ANALYSIS" SENT TO CONGRESS ON MAR 1 (SEE BA 1572). INDEED WHOLE POSTURE NOW ADOPTED BY GOVT IS IN CONTRAST TO VACILLATING AND APPARENTLY PRO-NAVARRO STANCE OF FIRST FEW DAYS.

7. EMBASSYS MODERATE PERONIST CONTACTS MAINTAIN PERON IS DISGUSTED WITH COL OSINDE FOR MANNER IN WHICH CORDOBA AFFAIRS WAS PRECIPITATED, AND FURIOUS WITH INTERIOR MIN LLAMBI FOR MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS HANDLED SUBSEQUENTLY. THERE ARE STRONG RUMORS THAT LLAMBI MAY BE REPLACED SOON.
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8. COMMENT: WHETHER PERON IS IN FACT DISGUSTED WITH OSINDE IS MOOT POINT. HE IS TELLING MODERATE PERONISTS AND RADICALES THAT HE IS BUT HE MAY BE TELLING OSINDE SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT. NONETHELESS IT MUST BE AS CLEAR TO PERON AS IT IS TO EVERYONE ELSE THAT OSINDE'S TACTICS NOT ONLY DID NOT WORK BUT NEARLY BROUGHT ABOUT A POLITICAL DISASTER. OSINDE AND NAVARRO'S MALADROIT COUP DID NOT IN FINAL ANALYSIS GET RID

OF OBREGON CANO. NEGOTIATIONS OF LASTRIRI AND TOTHER MODERATES
ACCOMPLISHED THAT. FURTHER BUNGLING POLICE REVOLT GENERATED
SUPPORT FOR OBREGON CANO AMONG ELEMENTS NOT NATURALLY
SYMPATHETIC TO HIM. AND RATHER THAN CLEANING OUT LEFT IN
CORDOBA, AS SOME HAD BELIEVED PLAN TO BE, NAVARROS TACTICS
LEFT IT IN EVEN BETTER POSITON--I.E., WITH SOME PUBLIC
SYMPATHY AND WITH UCR STANDING ON ITS SIDE. WHAEVER PERONS
OWN RLE IN THE AFFAIR (AND VERSIONS ARE WIDELY CONFLICTING),
THE INEPTITUDE SHOWED BY OSINDE AND HIS COHORTS CAN HARDLY
HAVE INSPIRED PERONS CONFIDENCE. MODERATE PERONIST HAVE
EXPRESSED SOME HOPE THAT FAILURE OF ULTRARIGHT IN THIS CASE
MAY INSPIRE MORE MODERATE POLICIES JUST AS AZUL ATTACK LED TO
REACTION AGAINST ULTRALEFT. THIS MAY IN PART REPRSENT MORE
WISHFUL THINKING THAN ANYTING ELSE AT THIS POINT, BUT
MODRATION OF PAST WO DAYS IS ENCOURAGING SING.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BUENOS01762
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740359/aaaaccil.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BA-1719, BA-1705, AND BA-1572
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OBREGON CANO RESIGNS; GOA SHIFTS TO MODERATE LINE
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PGOV, AR, (CANO, OBREGON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005